

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 040794

R 161758Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8581

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 09718

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:YGDS-3

TAGS: SREF, CB, US

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL RELIEF AND ASYLUM FROM  
CAMBODIANS

REF: (A) STATE 084084 (B) STATE 084161

SUMMARY: THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SHOW  
ITS TRADITIONAL HOSPITALITY TO POLITICAL REFUGEES; THERE  
WILL THEREFORE BE NO PROBLEM OF ANY FORCEFUL REPATRIA-  
TION OF KHMER TO PHNOM PENH. ON THE OTHER HAND, NO  
FRENCH GOVERNMENTAL, AND PROBABLY ONLY LIMITED PRIVATE  
FUNDS WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST KHMER WHO STAY IN FRANCE.  
THERE ARE URGENT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF FORMER GKR  
EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND SOME GKR OFFICIALS NOW IN FRANCE,  
AND SOME SPECIAL MEASURES WILL BE REQUIRED. LONGER  
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TERM "REFUGEE" ASSISTANCE CAN BE HANDLED THROUGH INTER-

NATIONAL AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. THERE WILL PROBABLY BE FEW REQUESTS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM; REQUESTS FROM SOME HIGH OFFICIALS WILL BE SPECIAL CASES. WE SHALL NEED MORE EXPLICIT INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON BEFORE WE CAN PROCEED TO TRY TO GET MORE DETAILS ON FUNDS NEEDED AND ON SPECIAL ENTRY PROCEDURES FOR THOSE SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM. END SUMMARY

1. BECAUSE OF GREATER URGENCY OF NEEDS OF CAMBODIANS, VIETNAMESE PROBLEM WILL BE COVERED IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE. OUR RESPONSE TO REFTELS HAS BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE OF GOF APRIL 12 RECOGNITION OF GRUNK WHICH HAS DRAMATICALLY ALTERED THE SITUATION AND MADE IT DIFFICULT TO CONSULT WITH CAMBODIAN AND FRENCH OFFICIALS.

2. FRENCH POLICY CONCERNING CAMBODIANS. THE GOF HAS INFORMED US THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO BE RELATIVELY LENIENT IN GIVING VISAS TO CAMBODIANS WISHING TO COME TO FRANCE. INSTRUCTIONS WILL SHORTLY BE SENT TO FRENCH MISSIONS TO CEASE PLACING VISAS IN GKR PASSPORTS, BUT VISAS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PLACED IN LAISSEZ PASSER OR OTHER DOCUMENTATION FRENCH WILL CONSIDER ADEQUATE. WHEN REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP, WE CAN ATTEMPT TO GET DETAILS. GOF WILL PERMIT FORMER DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO RETAIN DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARDS FOR A "REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME" AND WILL THEN GIVE THEM A "CARTE DE RESIDENCE TEMPORAIRE PRIVILEGIEE", FOR WHICH NATIONALS OF FORMER FRENCH INDOCHINA COUNTRIES CAN QUALIFY. REGULATIONS WILL BE WORKED OUT BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. HENCE, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL BE VERY LIBERAL IN PROVIDING A PERIOD OF SOME DURATION TO PERMIT CAMBODIANS TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WISH TO REMAIN IN FRANCE, WHETHER THEY CONSIDER IT SAFE TO RETURN TO PHNOM PENH, OR WHETHER THEY WILL WISH TO GO ELSEWHERE. GOF OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED FRANCE'S TRADITIONAL ROLE OF HOSPITALITY TOWARD POLITICAL REFUGEES AND INSISTED THAT NO REQUEST FROM THE GRUNK TO EXPEL OR OTHERWISE PERSECUTE ANY CAMBODIAN IN FRANCE WOULD BE ACCEPTED. A CONDITION FOR ASYLUM IN FRANCE WOULD BE TOTAL ABSTENANCE FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITY (FRENCH ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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INCENSED AT POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ). ON A LONGER TERM BASIS, CAMBODIANS WILL BE ABLE FAIRLY EASILY TO CONVERT THEIR TEMPORARY RESIDENT PERMIT INTO PERMANENT RESIDENCE AND MANY WILL NO DOUBT QUALIFY FOR APPLICATION FOR FRENCH NATIONALITY. DURING THIS INTERIM PERIOD THEY WOULD BE GIVEN THE STATUS OF POLITICAL REFUGEE, THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING WHICH WILL BE WORKED OUT BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THE

GOF WILL NOT ACCEDE TO GRUNK REQUEST (IF THERE IS ONE)  
THAT CAMBODIANS IN FRANCE, INCLUDING STUDENTS, ACQUIRE  
GRUNK PASSPORTS OR REGISTER WITH THE GRUNK EMBASSY.  
GOF NOW ASSUMES THAT FRENCH SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE  
CONTINUED FOR CAMBODIAN STUDENTS ONLY UNTIL THE END OF  
THIS ACADEMIC YEAR; GIVEN THE BILATERAL FRANCO/CAMBODIAN

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 040799

R 161758Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8582  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
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PROGRAM, GOF WILL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR  
NEXT YEAR TO ANY CAMBODIAN STUDENTS OTHER THAN THOSE  
PROPOSED BY THE GRUNK. QUAI NOTED THAT GOF'S GENEROSITY  
IN ACCEPTING POLITICAL REFUGEES WOULD NOT EXTEND TO  
GENEROSITY WITH FUNDS FOR RESETTLEMENT. SOME FRENCH  
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS MAY PROVIDE FUNDS, BUT HE  
EXPECTED THEY WOULD BE LIMITED. FRANCE WILL HAVE NO  
OPPOSITION TO THE CHANNELING OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AND  
PRIVATE FUNDS THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH

COMMISSION (UNHCR) OR ICEM OR PRIVATE FRENCH AGENCIES.  
WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH QUAI CONCERNING GOF VIEWS ON  
MOST SUITABLE PRIVATE AGENCIES.

3. ROUGH ESTIMATES ON CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY. BECAUSE OF  
PRECIPITOUS MOVE OF GKR EMBASSY FILES DURING THE WEEK-  
END, KHMER CHARGE HAS SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO GIVE US ONLY  
ROUGH ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF CAMBODIANS IN FRANCE. HE  
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BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE WELL OVER 100 CAMBODIANS WHO ARE  
FORMER GKR OFFICIALS OR THEIR DEPENDENTS. MANY OF THESE  
KHMER WILL REQUIRE SHORT TERM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND  
SOME MAY WISH POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES.  
THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 3,000 CAMBODIAN STUDENTS IN  
FRANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL, MOST WITH SOME FORM OF  
FRENCH GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP. HE ESTIMATED THERE ARE  
10,000 STUDENTS HERE UNDER PRIVATE AUSPICES IN PRIMARY  
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS. MANY OF THE LATTER WILL BE RE-  
CALLED TO PHNOM PENH BY THEIR PARENTS IF AND WHEN THE  
SITUATION THERE STABILIZES. AMONG THE OLDER STUDENTS  
MANY CAN BE EXPECTED GRADUALLY TO GO OVER TO THE OTHER  
SIDE, PARTICULARLY IF THEY ARE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE  
THEIR STUDIES IN FRANCE. SOME STUDENTS MAY WISH POLIT-  
ICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES BUT NO ESTIMATES CAN BE  
MADE AT THIS TIME. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE CATEGORIES,  
A NUMBER OF PROMINENT CAMBODIANS HAVE RETIRED TO FRANCE  
OR HAVE BEEN "CAUGHT HERE" WHILE UNDERGOING MEDICAL  
TREATMENT. MOST OF THESE PROMINENT CAMBODIANS APPEAR TO  
HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO EKE OUT A LIVING, PARTICU-  
LARLY WHEN ASSISTED BY CHILDREN OR IN-LAWS WORKING IN  
FRANCE. SOME OF THESE FORMER HIGH OFFICIALS MAY HOW-  
EVER WISH TO MOVE TO THE UNITED STATES AS A LONG TERM  
SOLUTION. OTHER KHMERS, INCLUDING FORMER MINISTER AND  
FORMER DIPLOMATS, ARE ALREADY COMING TO FRANCE AS A  
"COUNTRY OF CONVENIENCE" WHERE THEY HOPE TO WAIT OUT  
THE CURRENT CRITICAL PERIOD OF CHANGE IN CAMBODIA BE-  
FORE THEY DECIDE WHERE THEY WISH TO SETTLE PERMANENTLY.

4. FINANCIAL RELIEF. WE SHALL BE ATTEMPTING OVER THE  
NEXT FEW DAYS TO OBTAIN EITHER DIRECTLY OR FROM THE  
PERSONS OR THROUGH THE FORMER GKR CHARGE FURTHER DETAILS  
ON THE DEGREE OF FINANCIAL NEED OF FORMER OFFICIAL  
CAMBODIANS NOW IN FRANCE. WE BELIEVE THAT SOME REQUIRE-  
MENT MAY INITIALLY BE QUITE LARGE SINCE MANY OF THE  
MEMBERS OF THE KHMER EMBASSY HERE HAVE NOT RECEIVED  
THEIR SALARY FOR THREE TO FOUR MONTHS AND HAVE ACCUMUL-  
ATED DEBTS WHICH WILL PUT THEM IN LEGAL JEOPARDY ONCE  
THEIR DIPLOMATIC STATUS LAPSES. IN ADDITION THERE WILL  
NO DOUBT BE EXPENSES AS THEY MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM

RELATIVELY POSH DIPLOMATIC ACCOMMODATIONS TO THOSE  
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BEFITTING A REFUGEE. APPARENTLY FRENCH GOVERNMENT SEES  
NO MEANS AT THIS POINT TO PROTECT THESE FORMER  
DIPLOMATS FROM LEGAL PURSUIT FOR DEBTS INCURRED WHEN  
THEY HAD DIPLOMATIC STATUS. WE BELIEVE SPECIAL PROVI-  
SIONS WILL THEREFORE BE REQUIRED FOR THE LIQUIDATION OF  
THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM OF FORMER DIPLOMATS IN ADDITION TO  
WHATEVER MORE REGULAR "REFUGEE" ASSISTANCE MAY BE  
PROVIDED SUBSEQUENTLY. SOME OF THE YOUNGER STUDENTS  
MAY REQUIRE SOME ASSISTANCE UNTIL THEY CAN BE REPATRIATED  
SOME UNIVERSITY LEVEL STUDENTS MAY REQUIRE SOME HELP  
WHEN THEIR SCHOLARSHIPS LAPSE.

5. POLITICAL ASYLUM. DESPITE THE RELATIVELY LARGE  
NUMBER OF CAMBODIANS IN FRANCE, WE BELIEVE THE NUMBER  
ACTUALLY REQUESTING POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES  
WILL NOT BE VERY LARGE. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL BE  
GENEROUS IN PERMITTING KHMER TO STAY, AND MANY WILL FIND  
SOME MEANS OF GETTING ADEQUATE EMPLOYMENT IN FRANCE. ON  
THE OTHER HAND, IN SOME SPECIAL CASES, FORMER HIGH RANK-  
ING OFFICIALS WILL CONSIDER THEMSELVES MORE SAFE IN THE  
UNITED STATES THAN IN FRANCE AND THEY ALSO HOLD THAT  
PREVIOUS "SERVICE FOR THE U.S." MERITS SPECIAL USG  
CONSIDERATION. WE ARE PROCESSING SPECIAL CABLES CON-  
CERNING THE CASE OF FORMER CHIEF OF STATE CHENG HENG,  
FORMER COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE FANK, SOSTHENE  
FERNANDEZ, AND FORMER MINISTER OF REFUGEES DR. TOAN

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 040931  
R 161758Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8583  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
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THACH. IN ADDITION SOME YOUNG CAMBODIANS WHO STUDIED  
IN THE U.S. MAY PREFER RESIDENCE THERE TO ASYLUM IN  
FRANCE.

6. EMBASSY HAS TEMPORARILY SET UP SYSTEM WHEREBY ALL  
REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM (EXCEPT FOR VIPS), REFUGEE STATUS  
AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ARE DIRECTED TO VISA SECTION.  
THE APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED COMPLETE FS-118 (BIO.  
INFORMATION FORM), ARE INTERVIEWED BY CONOFF FOR DETER-  
MINATION URGENCY OF SITUATION, AND ARE TOLD THEIR RE-  
QUESTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

7. CONCLUSIONS: QUICK DECISIONS SHOULD BE MADE ON  
FUNDS AVAILABLE TO TAKE CARE OF EXPENSES CONNECTED WITH  
CLOSING OF GKR DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS. A SUBSEQUENT  
PHASE WOULD BE ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIAN OFFICIALS AND  
PERHAPS SOME STUDENTS OF A TRANSITIONAL NATURE (HANDLED  
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THROUGH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES) INCLUDING FOR PERSONS WHO  
WILL BE SETTLING PERMANENTLY IN FRANCE OR ELSEWHERE.  
POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES BREAKS DOWN INTO  
TWO CATEGORIES: (A) THOSE FORMER HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS  
WHO BELIEVE (WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION) THAT THEY DESERVE  
SPECIAL U.S. CONSIDERATION; AND (B) THOSE WITH NO  
SPECIAL CLAIM ON THE UNITED STATES WHO NONETHELESS  
PREFER ASYLUM THERE TO ELSEWHERE.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: WE SHALL NEED MORE SPECIFIC  
INFORMATION CONCERNING USG INTENTIONS CONCERNING POLIT-  
ICAL ASYLUM AND PARTICULARLY FINANCIAL RELIEF BEFORE  
WE CAN ATTEMPT TO GET MORE DETAILED INFORMATION FROM

THE GOF AND THE CAMBODIANS HERE. WE SHALL BE UNABLE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO JUSTIFY ASKING FOR ESTIMATES OF FUNDS REQUIRED FOR GKR EMBASSY PERSONNEL WITHOUT AT LEAST IMPLYING THAT WE SHALL BE PREPARED TO HELP MEET THEIR NEEDS. IF THE DEPARTMENT DECIDES, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT EXCEPT IN UNUSUAL CASES (SUCH AS CHENG HENG), WE SHALL BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO CAMBODIANS, BUT CAN ONLY TRANSMIT FUNDS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, THEN WE SHOULD NOT IMPLY TO KHMER OR FRENCH THAT WE SHALL BE ACCEPTING INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR US ASSISTANCE.  
STONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RELIEF, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLICIES, POLITICAL ASYLUM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D750133-0171  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 084084, 75 STATE 084161  
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**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

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**TAGS:** SREF, CB, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006